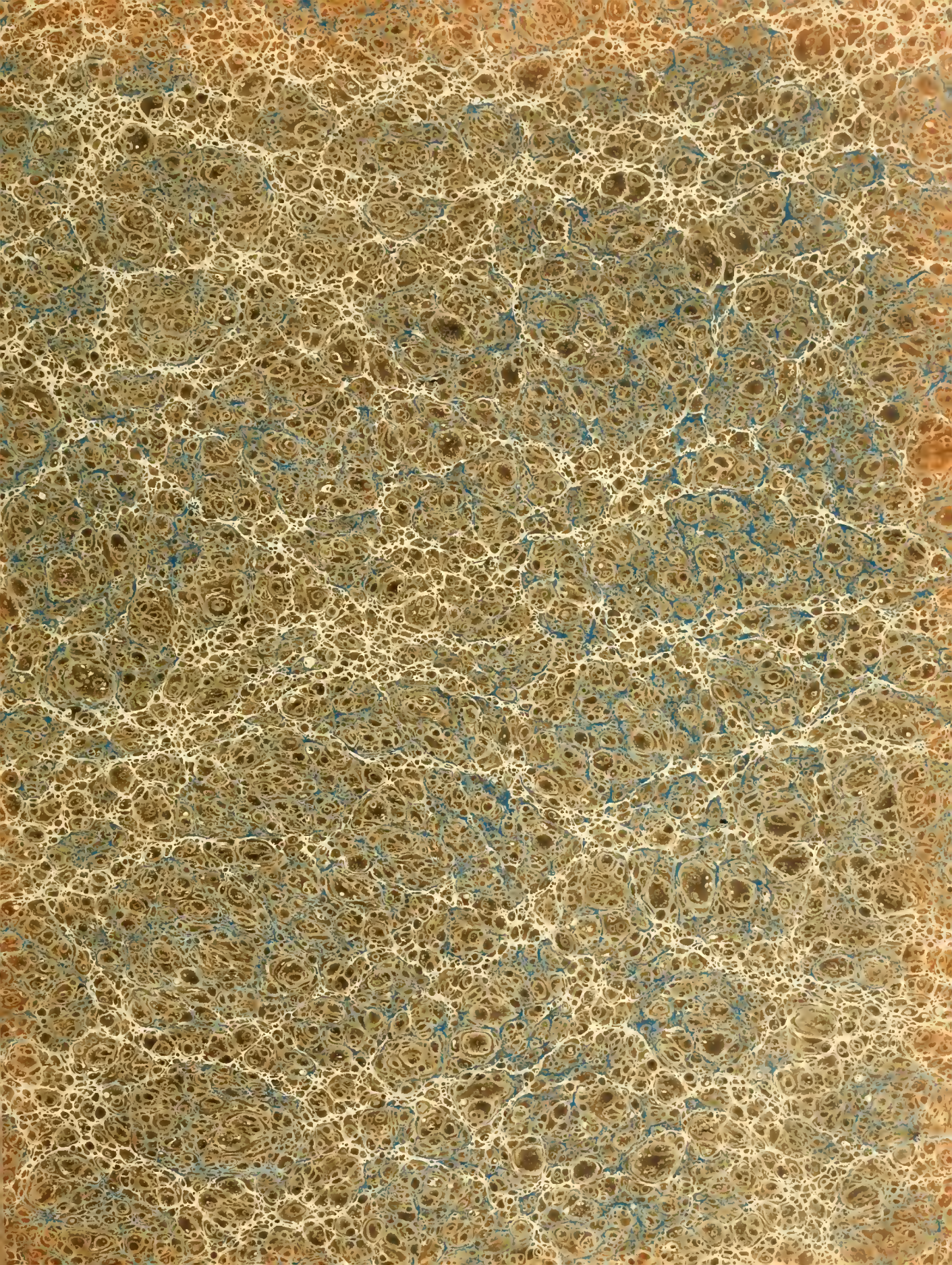
A926r

D
000 001 083
5

US SOUTHERN REGIONAL LIBRARY FACILITY

THE LIBRARY
OF
THE UNIVERSITY
OF CALIFORNIA
LOS ANGELES

FREDERIC THOMAS BLANCHARD
ENDOWMENT FUND



Sarah Frances Isle Dear Governor

1826 June Fe. 8th

given her by her much respected friend

Lady Hunter Blair

REVIEW OF POETRY,

ANCIENT and MODERN.

REVIEW

OF

POETRY,

ADDRESSED TO A SON.

OBJECT of my fondeſt care,
'Mid whoſe gay and childiſh air,
Pleas'd attention can deſcry
Reaſon's dawning brightneſs nigh;
While ſhe, with delighted view,
Marks thy cheek of roſy hue,
Marks thine eye, whoſe vivid light
Shines than orient gems more bright;

764327

Marks thy brows ſerenely bold,
Crown'd with locks of waving gold;
While an inexpreſſive charm,
More than features, more than form,
Which no pencil e'er could trace,
Heightens every infant grace.
Twice three Summers now have ſhed
Their warm ſun-beams o'er thy head,
Summers, fraught with anxious fears
To reflection's riper years:
While o'er Europe's waſted lands
Diſcord hurls her flaming brands,
And her rugged arms embrace
Gallia's ſanguinary race,
Fixing in each ſavage mind
Hatred to the human kind—

Pale

Pale experience, all aghaſt,
Reads the future in the paſt,
And amidſt impending gloom,
Trembles for the nation's doom.
Thee, lov'd boy, no cares moleſt,
Shade thy brow, or heave thy breaſt;
Or if cares ſhould diſcompoſe,
Like the dew-drop on the roſe,
Or like clouds before the wind,
Light, they leave no trace behind.
Genuine delights are thine,
Mirth and innocence divine,
Cherub health of florid hue,
Quick ſurpriſe for ever new,
Frolic fancy, gay and free,
Gilds the rapid hours for thee.

Happy age, to grief unknown!
Happy age, but quickly flown!
Soon thy ſports thou muſt reſign,
Studious labor then is thine;
Far from every youthful play
Grave inſtruction points thy way:
Science, rich in ancient ſtore,
Spreads for thee her claſſic lore:
Armed with magiſterial rage
Pedants guard the myſtic page,
Urging on thy tardy flight
To diſtinction's ſteepy height.
Rough is learning's arduous road,
Yet with brighteſt flowrets ſtrow'd,
Flowrets, 'mid the waſte of time,
Blooming in eternal prime.

Poeſy, with pleaſing guile,
Oft ſhall chear each graver toil,
And by fiction lead thy youth
To the ſenſe of moral truth.
When, enraptur'd, you rehearſe
Matchleſs Homer's glowing verſe,
While his artful muſe by turns
Chills with fear, with ardour burns
Melts to pity's ſoftened ſtate,
Or inſpires with generous hate;
Let th' inſtructive tale impart
Virtuous caution to thy heart:
Let the ten-years fatal war
Teach thee early to beware,
Nor to paſſion's dangerous ſway
Yield thyſelf a willing prey.

Thus, had ſenſual Paris ſtrove
To o'ercome his guilty love,
Lawleſs Helen had remained
Honour'd in her native land:
Valiant chiefs, untimely ſlain,
Had not preſſed the hoſtile plain:
And, undrenched in royal blood,
Troy's illuſtrious towers had ſtood.
Oft entranc'd thou ſhalt admire
Pindar's wild eccentric fire,
Borne on fancy's rapid wings,
Swifter than the theme he ſings,
Heſiod, who to thought refin'd
Purity of diction join'd,
Anacreon, whoſe lyric lay,
Ever graceful, ever gay,

Cele-

Celebrates in feſtive ſcene
Wine's young God, and Beauty's Queen,
Sappho's bright poetic flame,
Of her ſex the pride and ſhame,
Bion, o'er whoſe laureate hearſe,
Moſchus mourn'd in ſweeteſt verſe,
Theocritus, whoſe poliſh'd ſenſe
Shines in ſimple elegance,
While he paints in valleys green
Joys that wait the rural ſcene,
Sophocles, of lofty thought,
And the Bard * with pathos fraught,
Who recites the direful fate
That attends fraternal hate.—
O, may ne'er ſuch hate accurs'd
In my children's breaſts be nurs'd,

But

* Euripides.

But a mutual conſtant love
Cheer thoſe ills which all muſt prove.
Ariſtophanes combin'd
Brilliant wit and force of mind;
Yet with an indignant rage
Turn from his licentious page,
That to ridicule conſigned
Th' ornament * of human kind——
See amid a later age
Plautus charm the Latian ſtage;
Quick invention's varied mien
Sparkles in each comic ſcene,
But too oft th' averted eye
Turns from groſs obſcenity.

* Socrates.

Terence

Terence chaſter, more refin'd,
Pleaſes and improves the mind:
To complete his poliſh'd line,
Lælius, Africanus join:
Attic taſte his pen revives,
And Menander in him lives.
Rudely learned Ennius ſung
Fair Linternum's groves among;
Yet his energetic ſtrain
Could even Cato's praiſe obtain.
In Lucretius we lament
Talents loſt, and time miſpent:
Taught amid Athenian ſchools
Atheiſm's pernicious rules,
Idly learn'd, he dares advance
Faireſt order ſprung from chance,

 While

While confus'dly atoms hurl'd,
Harmoniz'd into a world.
Much Catullus muſt we prize
Who dar'd Cæſar's wrath deſpiſe:
Yet more praiſe ſhould he receive
Who ſo nobly could forgive.
Mantua's bard ſublimely ſings
Fates of heroes and of kings,
Or deſcending to the plains,
Warbles ſweet in ruſtic ſtrains.
Horace points his ſatire ſtrong,
Or awakes the lyric ſong.
Ovid's tender lines impart
Subtile poiſon to the heart.
Soft in elegiac ſtrains
Fond Tibullus' muſe complains:

With no vain ambition fraught,
He nor wealth nor honours ſought,
Scorning mid a courtly train
Even the imperial ſmile to gain.
Native energy and fire
In Propertius' lays conſpire,
While his fixed and ardent flame
Gives to Cynthia laſting fame.
Vainly the fond muſe's love
Deathleſs wreaths for Gallus wove:
By ingratitude * debas'd,
He their partial boon diſgrac'd.
Hapleſs Lucan's nervous ſtrain
Paints Pharſalia's ſanguine plain.

* Having conſpired againſt Auguſtus, his benefactor.

Gay

Gay Petronius could control
Savage Nero's cruel ſoul:
But too ſoon his alter'd fate
Sunk beneath the tyrant's hate.
Thus from every age we prove
Vice can never truly love;
For in preſent as in paſt,
Virtuous friendſhips only laſt.
Juvenal with generous rage
Laſh'd the vices of his age;
Yet full oft his nervous thought,
In unſeemly language wrought,
Spreads a deeply crimſon'd die
O'er the cheek of modeſty.
Like him, to ſatiricLays
Perſius conſecrates his days.

But

But diſguſted to behold
Nature in ſo foul a mould,
Oft we cloſe their liſt of crimes,
And revert to happier times——
As in the metallic mine
Pureſt ores mid baſeſt ſhine,
Thus in Statius' doubtful page
Beauties mixed with faults engage.
Tho' renown be Martial's due,
With contempt the bard we view
Who, from vanity or fear,
Meanly ſooth'd a tyrant's ear.
Claudian's luſtre cheered the gloom
That o'erwhelmed declining Rome:
On th' expiring poet's breaſt
Genius ſunk to death-like reſt,

Nor again review'd the earth
Till awoke by Dante's birth.
Mid a rude, unlettered age
Dante formed his myſtic page;
Hence the obſcure and rugged line
Often clouds the work divine;
Yet his ſelf-illumin'd ray
Kindled to a brighter day.
Softeſt paſſion, pureſt fire
Petrarch's moving lines inſpire,
While the loves and virtues mourn
With him o'er his Laura's urn.
Arioſto's ſportive muſe
Fiction's wildeſt themes purſues,
Tells of necromantic ire,
Stygian ſprights, and giants dire,

Knights

Knights on flying courſers borne,
Streams inſpiring love and ſcorn,
Beauties fatal to behold,
Paladins and virgins bold,
Who with more than mortal might
Rag'd unconquer'd thro' the fight.
Taſſo in ſublimer ſtrains
Sings Judæa's hallow'd plains,
Pious Godfrey's ſpotleſs fame,
Tancred's unavailing flame,
Guelpho's feats, from whom we trace
Honour'd Brunſwick's warlike race,
Young Rinaldo's conquering arms,
Falſe Armida's baleful charms,
And ſuperior to his fate,
Soliman in exile great.

Leav-

Leaving now each foreign ſoil,
Turn we to thy native iſle;
Genius with a fonder eye
View'd nor Greece nor Italy.
Happy land by nature bleſt,
In her faireſt liv'ry dreſt!
Mild the ſuns and pure the gales
That refreſh her graſſy vales;
Her's are daughters fam'd for charms,
Her's are ſons renown'd for arms,
Nor for arms alone: the mind,
By philoſophy refin'd,
Here has fathom'd truths unknown,
And each ſcience made her own.
But more learned bards muſt name
Bacon's, Newton's, Harvey's fame,

And with unremitting toil
Trace the depth of Locke and Boyle;
While I view with careleſs eye
Fairer ſcenes of poeſy.
As amid the gloom of night,
When no ſtar emits its light,
Swift the meteor's ſudden ray
Gleams a momentary day;
Thus gay Chaucer's mirthful rhymes
Glittered amid barb'rous times.
Next deſcriptive Spenſer ſhrouds
Truth in allegory's clouds,
And in Gloriana's name
Sings Eliza's matchleſs fame.
Peerleſs Shakeſpeare brightly ſhone
With a ſplendour all his own:

While with eloquence divine
Nature ſpeaks thro' ev'ry line;
Scorning frigid rules of art,
He enchants the yielding heart,
O'er the ſubject paſſion reigns,
Reaſon charms, and judgment chains,
And with unreſiſted ſway,
Steals each captive ſenſe away.
Jonſon's labour'd ſcenes impart
Leſs of genius, more of art.
Join'd with Beaumont's friendly name,
Fletcher gains dramatic fame:
One for brighter wit renown'd,
One for judgment more profound.
Loyal Cowley's virtuous mind
Copious wit to learning join'd.

Den-

Denham in more meaſur'd lines
Britiſh poeſy refines,
Teaching in his nervous page
Skill to the ſucceeding age.
Strong deſcription, thoughts ſublime
Soaring beyond place or time,
Scenes of wonder, terror, pain,
Glow thro' Milton's lofty ſtrain.
Whether his aſpiring flight
Joins the dazzling ſons of light,
Or amid the infernal reign
Meets the fall'n angelic train,
Or in Eden's bliſsful groves
With the firſt of mortals roves,
Awful grandeur ſtill is ſhewn
Unexampled, and alone.

Laviſh wit and humour gay
Crown ſarcaſtic Butler's lay,
Formed to humble and deride
Zealots' hypocritic pride.
Bending with empaſſion'd mien
O'er pathetic Otway's ſcene,
Sympathy with ſtreaming eye
Mourns fictitious miſery;
For ſuch touching woes are ſhown
As each breaſt muſt feel its own.
Courtly Waller's poliſh'd ſtrain
Sachariſſa woo'd in vain;
Nor his genius nor his love
Could the ſcornful beauty move.
High amid the ſons of fame
View exhauſtleſs Dryden's name,

Dryden,

Dryden, whoſe expanſive mind
Strength with harmony combin'd :
But chill poverty's control
Oft depreſs'd his vigorous ſoul ;
And indignant we ſurvey
Adulation ſtain his lay.
Philips in majeſtic ſtrain
Sings Pomona's cultur'd reign.
Wit and learning bluſhing boaſt
Smith, by vile intemp'rance loſt.
Eaſy numbers, ſmooth and gay,
Sweetly flow thro' Parnel's lay.
Faſcinating beauties glow
In the graceful lines of Rowe.
Warmeſt praiſes Garth attend,
Poverty's and merit's friend.

Addiſon's enlighten'd page
Charm'd while it reform'd the age;
There philoſophy pourtray'd
Frowns in no forbidding ſhade,
And mid each perplexing care
Virtue ſhines divinely fair.
Prior ſhews how mental worth
Far excels the pride of birth;
For by talents only rais'd,
Courtiers ſought him, monarchs prais'd.
Sparkling wit's inceſſant blaze
Congreve crown'd with early bays.
Penſive Gay repin'd to ſee
Human hope's uncertainty;
Hope, whoſe viſions, bright as vain,
Still delude, yet ſtill enchain.

In deſpairing Hammond's lines
With new grace Tibullus ſhines.
Conſtant friendſhip's ſacred flame
Still illumines Tickell's name,
Which thro' life conſpicuous ſhone,
Join'd with taſte and Addiſon.
Savage with peculiar fate
Prov'd a barb'rous mother's hate:
From his native honours torn,*
Doom'd to calumny and ſcorn,
Still o'er his devoted head
Want her baleful influence ſhed:
Yet with a reſplendent ray
Genius cheer'd his rugged way,

* The Earldom of Macclesfield.

And

And when long thro' ſorrows led
Life's indignant ſpirit fled,
Generous pity ſoftening blame,
Gave him to eternal fame.
Bright was Swift's meridian pride,
Harley's friend, and Ireland's guide:
Horrid o'er his cloſing ſcene
Gloom'd pale frenzy's haggard mien.
Thus like beauty's fragile prime
Stronger wit muſt yield to time.
Where does fleeting bliſs then reſt?
Only in religion's breaſt.—
Brilliant fancy, judgment clear,
Melody beyond compeer,
Quick intelligence of mind,
Reaſon ſtrong, and thought refin'd,

All that genius, all that art
Can of magic force impart,
Varied beauties to diſplay,
Meet in Pope's enchanting lay.
Liſtening to the tuneful ſtrain
Livid envy frowns in vain,
While warm admiration pays
Tributes of ecſtatic praiſe.
By luxuriant Thomſon led
Fancy climbs the mountain's head;
Wanders by pale Cynthia's light
Mid the polar half-year's night,
Where refulgent meteors glow
O'er perpetual hills of ſnow;
Shuddering from th' impending ſteep
Views th' unfathomable deep:

Or recoiling from the fight,
Turns where ſofter ſcenes invite:
Mid the foreſt's cool retreat
Shuns the noontide's ſcorching heat;
Or in the tranſlucent wave
Seems the fervid limbs to lave;
Or mid Afric's ſunny vales
Breathes the aromatic gales,
While the dazzled eyes ſurvey
Scenes, exuberantly gay.
Shenſtone mid his lov'd retreat
Sung Alcides' lofty fate;
How in early youth his mind
Pleaſure's faithleſs lures declin'd,
And by hardy virtue train'd,
Deathleſs bliſs, and glory gain'd.

Sweetly

Sweetly flow the ſolemn ſtrains
When deſponding Young complains,
Mourning, midnight's deepeſt gloom,
Fair Narciſſa's early doom:
Young, who erſt ſevere and gay
Shone in ſatire's daring lay.
Akenſide in colours warm
Paints imagination's charm.
Careleſs Churchill's vigorous mind
Pours his ſatire unconfin'd.
Goldſmith's winning lines impart
Soft benevolence of heart.
Where the moon with glimmering ray
Lights the church-yard's lonely way,
By pale contemplation led,
Moral Gray delights to tread.

Maſon

Maſon with inſtructive lay
Warns th' ambitious, fair, and gay,
While o'er beauty's ſable bier
Admiration drops a tear.
Senſe, by ſtudious thought refin'd,
Critic taſte, with candour join'd,
Strong diſcernment, juſt and clear,
Graceful diction, truth ſevere,
Piety's ſeraphic flame
Mark enlighten'd Johnſon's name.
Leaving fancy's tuneful train,
Beauties more ſublime remain,
Where the holy ſeers of yore
Pour prophetic wiſdom's lore,

And to rapt devotion prove
Heaven's unceaſing truth and love.
Whether glowing hymns reveal
Royal David's fervent zeal,
Or Iſaiah's lofty mind
Threats the ruin of his kind,
Or in ſofter, ſweeter ſtrain,
Jeremiah tells his pain,
While his ſad laments deplore
Sion's priſtine greatneſs o'er,
Peerleſs glories thro' each line
Prove the origin divine.
O may each celeſtial truth
Influence thy tender youth,

Teach thee every vice to ſhun
That has hapleſs man undone,
And thro' error's tenfold night
Lead thee to eternal light.

F I N I S.

THE LIBRARY
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
LOS ANGELES

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA LIBRARY
Los Angeles
This book is DUE on the last date stamped below.

MAY 5 - 1953

Form L9–100m-9,'52 (A3105) 444

3 1158 01048 06

UC SOUTHERN REGIONAL LIBRARY FA
D 000 001 083 5